

SENATE RESOLUTION 233

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Everett Leroy Erickson on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Everett Leroy "Eric" Erickson will celebrate his 100th birthday on September 9, 2010, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, born to Amanda and Gustav Erickson, a Swedish minister who emigrated to America alone at the age of thirteen, Eric Erickson grew up in the Swedish Methodist denomination as the middle of five boys; and

WHEREAS, as his father served in churches from Nebraska to New York, young Eric and his family moved quite a bit; promising his mother that he would become a minister, Eric Erickson left Jamestown, New York, to attend college at Garrett Biblical Institute and Northwestern in Chicago, Illinois, before graduating from Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Eric Erickson's first job was teaching at Lone Jack High School in Kentucky, earning a salary of \$80 per month, plus an additional payment of \$10 for coaching basketball; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the teaching profession, he spent the next sixteen years working for the Delaware Powder Company as a dynamite salesman in Pineville, Kentucky, where he met Ruth Weller, to whom he has been married for fifty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Erickson's expertise in explosives enabled him to serve his nation during World War II, during which time the explosives depot he operated was declared to be "essential to the war effort"; and

WHEREAS, Eric and Ruth Erickson are the loving parents of three children, Neal, Andrea, and Lynn, and the devoted grandparents and great-grandparents of seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Erickson spent the majority of his career as an independent insurance agent, and though he was never ordained, he served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm as a lay pastor for several small churches in New York State and in St. Lucie County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, he has faithfully served his fellow Christians in many ways, including serving as Chair of Staff Parish and Administrative Board at his church in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and as a lay delegate to the Annual Conference and member of the Florida Conference Committee on Pastor Retirement Housing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Erickson has enjoyed being a Sunday School teacher and a song leader for Methodist Men; known as the "best tenor in the choir," he is also a talented pianist whose spirited singing of hymns provides a great source of enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, Eric Erickson has never met a stranger, giving a friendly greeting to everyone at church, at the gym, and at the mall; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are delighted to join in honoring this committed Christian and dynamic American on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Everett Leroy Erickson on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.